

# Sentinel

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LSU in Shreveport

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## LSUS math professor's legacy lives on

Michelle Millhollon  
The Sentinel

It is impossible to measure in words the impact the Jan. 3 death of Dr. Don Smith made at LSUS. Students had lost one of the university's most respected and beloved professors. Faculty members had lost a



Smith

distinguished colleague and friend.

"He was always helping students, taking time out of his day to help them," Kelli Neal, 20, said. "He did it willingly; he wanted to do it."

Neal was a student worker for Smith when he was diagnosed with cancer in July. A tumor shattered an arm bone and then spread to Smith's kidneys. Sadly, it was pneumonia, not the cancer which he seemed to be beating, that killed him. His immune system was so drained that his body just couldn't overcome the illness.

"He fought it to the end," Neal said. "The only thing he was concerned about was his students and who was taking care of them and what he was teaching next semester."

Smith joined the mathematics staff at LSUS in 1968 after coming home from the Vietnam War in which he earned a Bronze Star. In his 24 years here, he received three faculty performance awards and was honored by the LSU system in 1986 with the coveted Distinguished Outstanding

Undergraduate Teaching Award.

When Lori Timmons, 21, took a math class taught by Smith, she hated math with a passion. She credits Smith's enthusiasm and inexhaustible help with turning that opinion around. Today she still proudly displays the LSUS license plate Smith gave her for scoring 100 percent on an exam.

"It seems kind of dumb, but for someone who's always done poorly in math, it really means a lot," she said. "It was just shocking and it was sad to lose such a good man. He was a dedicated Christian and he was genuine; what you saw was what you got."

Dr. Carlos Spaht, a fellow math professor, perhaps knew his colleague better than anyone outside Smith's family. For a period of time between the two men's divorces, they shared an apartment.

"We were pretty much

inseparable for a while," Spaht said. "He was the most giving, caring person I'd ever known."

Spaht said that when he became separated from his first wife, his world fell apart.

"He (Smith) said, 'You've got to come over and stay with me until you find someplace (to live).'"

Spaht stayed in the bedroom reserved for Smith's children when they visited. When those visits came, Smith insisted on giving his bedroom to Spaht while Smith slept on the couch.

"He said, 'The sofa's too short for your tall body, but it's just right for my short, squatty body.'"

Spaht said a spirit of giving defined Smith's personality. He remembers a time when an LSUS professor's high-school daughter was struggling in math and Smith offered to tutor her free-of-charge.

"He'd be up there to help her,

just to help her," Spaht said. "If somebody needed help, he'd just do it."

Spaht believes that Smith's only flaw was his giving nature.

"His weakness was -- if you could call it a weakness -- people would take advantage of him. He just couldn't say no."

Smith's family has set up a memorial scholarship in his name at the LSUS Office of University Relations, 797-5179.

"Contributions have been coming in steadily, almost every day since he passed away," said Leonard Selber, vice chancellor of University Relations. "People have sent in money from all over Louisiana and Texas and Arkansas."

Checks should be made out to the LSUS Foundation and noted in the memo line that the contribution is for the Don Smith Scholarship.

## New library opening remains up in air

Darren Svan  
The Sentinel

With the end of January rapidly approaching, the number one question on campus is, will the new Noel Memorial Library open this month? It seems the LSUS administration got the opening month correct but the year wrong.

"I have no definite time frame for the opening, maybe sometimes this year, or the beginning of next year," said Laurene Zaporzhets, dean of Noel Memorial Library. "If everything were to go perfectly the new library could open after the summer session, but so far, everything hasn't gone according to plans."

The \$10 million project, which began approximately 18 months ago, is now facing two major problems. In

addition to the money - \$150,000 to \$200,000 - needed to move the old library into the new one, money needed for shelves and equipment has not been received by the LSUS Purchasing Office.

"I understand the Louisiana Office of Facility and Planning has approved the money, but I have not received an official written copy," said R.G. Singleton, director of purchasing at LSUS. "I want you to understand, we here at this administration have done all we can; we are just waiting now."

Somewhere between the State of Louisiana Office of Facility and Planning, and the State Bond Commission, money needed for the new library equipment approximately \$600,000 - is in bureaucratic limbo.

According to Leonard Selber, vice chancellor for university relations, raising the money needed for moving the old library into the new one is going according to plans.

"From my standpoint it's always an ongoing effort to raise money for the move. In addition to that money, I also receive other elements for the library, such as books and archives," Selber said. "If the library administration was ready to move I would find the money somehow."

Bids taken last year, from local companies for moving the library and shelving the library, are on a 60-day extension.

**Editor's note:** At presstime, library officials had received verbal approval to have the shelves made.



photo by Joan Rivers

The new Noel Memorial Library will remain empty until shelving is completed and funds for moving costs are raised.



## University reinstates Friday hours; library extends hours

Carla Clark  
Associate Editor

University offices and buildings will soon remain open on Friday afternoon, states a memo from Fred Krieg, director of human resources management. The Executive Council recommended the change to Chancellor John Darling and Darling approved it.

The change will go into effect Monday, January 31.

The new weekend college influenced the decision. Suzzane Bright, director of Information Services, said the committee

felt that the library, bookstore and other services needed to be available to students on weekends, and since the university would no longer be shut down on weekends to save money, the facilities should stay open on Friday afternoons as well.

"The thing is, we're basically incurring the costs anyway," said Chancellor John Darling. "We now have classes occurring on Saturday mornings in nearly every building on campus, so we can't shut down."

University officials, said Bright, also felt that offices needed to remain open on

Friday afternoons for members of the community, students and potential students who need to conduct business with the university.

Darling added that he has asked Library Director Laurene Zaporozhetz to open the library on Saturday mornings as soon as she can arrange for staffing.

Zaporozhetz said that the library will go to Friday afternoon hours beginning Feb. 4.

Howard Craig, Vice Chancellor for business affairs, said that the university should not have any trouble covering costs for additional utilities on weekends.

"The savings for utilities on weekends was minimal," Craig said. "It's really not going to drastically affect our expenses."

**New hours for the university offices will be:**

Monday - Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

**For the library:**

Monday - Thursday 7:30 a.m.-9 p.m.

Friday 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Sunday 1-5 p.m.

**For the bookstore:**

Monday and Tuesday 7:45 a.m.-6:30 p.m.

Wednesday - Friday 7:45 a.m.-5 p.m.

## Senate officer assumes vice presidency, sets goals

Alexis Alexander  
The Sentinel

The Student Government Association opened another semester session amid talks of nominations, resignations and irresponsibility.

Due to the resignation of former vice president Marilyn Durham last fall, Kevin Eades, the senate's president pro tempore, moved into the higher position. Durham announced her plans in October of last year.

At the time, she said she saw great potential in the senators, but felt it was to the advantage of the school that she step down. Durham said she needed to take time to prepare for graduate school.

Now, Durham believes it is in the best interest of the students for President Vincent Mangum to resign. She feels that Mangum is not being responsible to the student body.

"I just think the president's spreading himself too thin...," Durham said.

Durham is concerned that Mangum's course load, 21 hours, along with his other student activities, does not leave him



Durham

adequate time to devote to the SGA.

"I think the keystone is that the students better call the president down," Durham said. "If he's not going to do the job that he was elected and paid to do, then he needs to resign...he should have resigned last semester."

It is not in the best interest for Mangum to resign, Eades said.

"He has leadership, presence and the ability to be president. He should be president."

As long as he can continue his duties, it shouldn't matter how many courses he takes, Eades said.

"I wanted what was best for the students of LSUS, and to let him get away with not attending meetings...," Durham said. "I think the students of the university have not been represented."

Mangum said the SGA has been stronger under his leadership than it was under previous presidents.

"Students have been represented on almost every committee," he said. "The SGA built integrity in the fall semester. We built a bridge back to the faculty



Mangum

and administration."

One of Mangum's goals for the spring is to build a bridge back to the students and let them know that they have representation and to let them know that they are being heard.

The by-laws of the SGA Constitution, according to Mangum, state he must put in 12 hours a week as president. He said his time is not always spent in the office. He attends weekly meetings with Chancellor Darling and with Dr. Gloria Raines, faculty advisor to the SGA.

Durham's complaints come too late for Mangum.

"She should have run against me. She was forced into taking a back seat to what decisions I made," Mangum said. "It's not her place to judge at this point."

"I don't know why things are the way they are," Durham said, "but I just know I don't want to be part of it. I'm real happy to be out of that mess."

Mangum plans to move on with his goals for the semester and with his new vice-president.

"Kevin shows a lot of initiative and drive. We have a lot of the same goals," Mangum said.

Eades' move to the vice president position was made through the Article of

Succession in the SGA Constitution. As president pro-tempore he was automatically put in the position.

There is a difference between his old position and his new one, Eades admits.

"The biggest change now is that my concerns lean toward what benefits the school as a whole rather than just my college," he said.

Several goals for the senate have been set by Eades:

- Bringing the SGA back to the students.

- Keeping a better watch on the administration.

- Improving the faculty-senate-student member connection.

- Working on a program to educate the senators to serve students better.

- Being more effective in their positions.

The position that Eades left vacant, senator pro tempore, will be filled in a senate election.

There are a few vacant seats in the senate due to failure to meet grade standards and some senators did not return to the university. All of the seats will be filled by appointments from the president and approval from the senate, Eades said.

## President Clinton does/doesn't make the grade

Republican: he is an 'embarrassment for the nation'; Democrat: 'he has done a good job'

Alexis Alexander  
The Sentinel

President Bill Clinton flunked his first year as president, according to Dalton Woods, the chairman of the Caddo Parish Republican Executive Committee.

"President Clinton: First Year Report Card" was the topic of a debate last week sponsored by the LSUS Government and Law Society. Approximately 30 people attended.

Woods represented the conservative viewpoint and said Bill and Hillary Clinton are true liberals. "Don't believe what they say; believe what they are doing," he said.

Three major issues Clinton has faced in the past year, according to Woods, are integrity, international affairs and domestic

affairs.

Clinton does not stand behind his integrity, said Woods. Scandals such as "Whitewatergate" and his alleged affairs have deceived the public.

In international affairs, Woods believes that Clinton "has been an embarrassment for the nation." Woods said the president has an open contempt for the military, "waffled" in Bosnia, and attempted to bluff the North Koreans.

"We're now in much greater danger of some confrontation under his administration," Woods said.

On the domestic front, Clinton will receive the credit for an economic recovery that began one year before he entered office, Woods said. Clinton will also be credited for

one of the largest tax increases in history.

"No tax increase has improved the economy or has ever reduced the deficit. Even by (Clinton's) own figures, the deficit will increase in years," Woods said.

Overall, Woods gave the president a D for his first year in office, but feels Clinton flunked the integrity test, will see confrontations on the international scene and will muddle through the economic and domestic front.

In opposition to Woods was Lou Burnett. Burnett most recently served as chief of staff to former U.S. Congressman Jerry Huckaby, and has 27 years of experience on Capitol Hill.

"1993 was a year of welcome change and President Clinton has succeeded in leading

the country in new directions," Burnett said.

He said, "political potholes" are expected with any new president, and Bill Clinton was no exception. Burnett listed several of Clinton's accomplishments such as passage of NAFTA, the Brady bill and his Anti-Crime package.

In his first year, Clinton has created millions of new jobs, interest rates are at a 25-year low and his administration is redefining government and cutting red tape, according to Burnett.

Clinton has fared well in year-end polls and in his first year has proven he is "not afraid to tackle tough issues," Burnett said. "I think he has done a good job." Burnett gave Clinton a B+ for his first-year report card.



# Marsala divides time between class, commission

Carla Clark  
Associate Editor

Dr. Vincent J. Marsala is a man who believes in practicing what he preaches. A professor of Louisiana history and government, Marsala just wasn't satisfied with textbook knowledge. In order to learn more about the government and how it works, Marsala ran for Caddo Parish Commissioner in 1987 -- and won.

"I decided to run because I wanted to see and participate in politics, and I felt that I could take all of that learning back to the classroom," Marsala said. "I feel that professors ought to take an active role in the community."

Active would certainly characterize his campaign efforts in 1987. Marsala handled every aspect of the campaign himself, from writing speeches and campaign literature, to visiting nearly 3,000 homes on foot to distribute his flyers.

"We tend to isolate ourselves as academics," Marsala said. He had worked as a consultant to a number of political campaigns before he decided to run for the

commission, so he was able to apply all of his experience to his own campaign. It paid off, and he is now in his second term as a commissioner, having run unopposed in 1991.

"I truly admire Vince because he came to the conclusion that there is a vast body of knowledge out there in the form of practical experience," said his longtime friend and colleague Dr. Dalton Cloud. "There is a saying that there is a vast difference between town and gown...Vince epitomizes the perfect combination of town and gown."

The commission maintains the roads, bridges, jails and libraries throughout the parish, as well as the Juvenile Justice Center. Commissioners also work with the Chamber of Commerce to support economic development in the area, and make decisions about zoning ordinances.

Marsala is quick to point out that his duties as a commissioner do no interfere with his work at LSUS. He takes leave time when he goes to commission meetings or activities.

"Vince is committed to very high ethical principles," Cloud said. "He studies the issues carefully and is willing to listen to his constituents. He serves a very diverse group of people, and that is not an easy thing to do."

At LSUS, Marsala is the dean of Continuing Education and Public Service, which provides workshops, training programs, institutes, conferences and credit and non-credit courses for the non-traditional students.

"One of our roles is to extend the university to members of the community," Marsala said. He stresses the fact that LSUS has a large number of non-traditional students, and the university must do everything it can to accommodate them.

Marsala's tenure at LSUS began in 1967, when he became one of the first faculty members to sign on with the newly established university.

"The university only had two buildings back then," Marsala said. "All of the faculty members brought brown bad lunches, and we would sit and eat together."

Since those early days,



When he's not logging time behind his desk or in the classroom, Dr. Marsala is a Caddo Parish Commissioner.

Marsala has done extensive research into government and politics. He has published a number of books and articles and given dozens of lectures and presentations throughout

Shreveport and Bossier. Marsala's desire to make the transition from abstract to practical knowledge makes him one of the university's most valuable resources.

## Director returns to Vietnam for film

Morris Crichlow  
Features Editor

Oliver Stone again brings us to the fields of Vietnam with his new film, *Heaven and Earth*. We return, not looking through the eyes of soldiers, but instead seeing the war from the perspective of those for whom our soldiers fought. Stone opens our eyes to the suffering we forced on the Vietnamese people by destroying their traditional way of life, preventing those who survived the war physically unharmed from escaping the mortal wound we inflicted upon the Vietnamese soul.

Stone captures this soul by varying his direction with the life of principle character Le Ly and her country. His direction, at one point a warm and uplifting touch, knocks us down with a cold and unflinching shove as he makes his point more clear than we want it to be.

Stone selected an unknown actress (Hiep Thi Le) to play Le Ly so that the audience would be willing to look at her life, and the life of her country, from a new



Hiep Thi Le portrays Le Ly in *Heaven and Earth*.

perspective. Hiep Thi Le fills the role with youthful passion and reluctant acceptance.

She receives support from proven actors Dr. Haing S. Ngor (*The Killing Fields*) and Joan Chen (*The Last Emperor, Twin Peaks*). Also supporting is Tommy Lee Jones whose confused and paranoid character embodies America's influence on Vietnam.

Academy Award winners Robert Richardson (photography) and David Brenner (editing) join editor Sally Menke (*Reservoir Dogs*) in bringing to the audience a harshness usually ignored in American cinema. The mots

brutal scenes involve no physical injury.

*Heaven and Earth* is not the most intense movie released this year, but it brings suffering to our eyes like no other. In this sense, it may remind you of an earlier Stone film called *Born on the 4th of July*. This comparison falls short of accuracy because in *Heaven and Earth*, hope tempers Le Ly's sadness. The audience wouldn't mind going again into the depths; it knows the heights to which this path eventually leads.

## Pacino gives solid performance, redeems himself in *Carlito's Way*

Morris Crichlow  
Features Editor

After serving five years of a 30-year sentence, Carlito Brigante is released from prison. Though a criminal in his youth, he no longer wants to live by the law of the streets. He wants only to escape them with his life, his lover and his honor. He asks too much.

From the ads, you might guess the *Carlito's Way* is nothing but a ripoff of retiring-gangster movies like *Godfather III* and *King of New York*. You would be wrong. Its screenplay includes much good material which Al Pacino (as Carlito) and his supporting cast bring to life. The audience empathizes with Carlito's struggle to honor his commitments, saving his friends and lover at the expense of himself.

Most of you probably remember Pacino from last year's *Scent of a Woman*. Pacino's presence on screen exhibits the power we expect from his and reminds us of his other great performances in films like *And Justice For All*, *Scarface* and, most recently, *Glengarry, Glen Ross*. He redeems himself for letting us down with last year's *Scent of a Woman*. But, if he was

half the man he was ten years ago, (Tony Montana), he'd take a flamethrower to the studio responsible for that disappointment.

Speaking of disappointments, director DePalma persists in copying techniques that other directors do better. His "artistic talent" actually removes much of the tension from Carlito's final scene. DePalma also has Pacino narrate, a style that fails to work with an actor who conveys more through body language than voice.

The action scenes in *Carlito's Way* will make you want to see it again. While they lack the Western showdown flair found in some of today's better action scenes (courtesy of Quentin Tarantino and, originally, Sergio Leone), they impress with subtle intensity reminiscent of the final confrontation in *Taxi Driver*.

Penelope Ann Miller creates a complex character who leaves a trail of smoke each time she exits the screen.

Miller and Pacino add a memorable romantic scene to a year bereft of them, but don't see *Carlito's Way* for its individual scenes. See it for its engaging story which unites them.



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## The Sentinel

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### From the editor

## Library is monument to vacant buildings

The new Noel Memorial Library stands empty, a monument to such notable vacant structures around the area as the American Tower building and the new Caddo Parish jail. It seems we in Shreveport can't put good buildings to use, or perhaps our politicians are so intent on wasting time with red tape that they forget that these buildings are ready to be occupied.

Meanwhile, we wait, and wait and wait for someone down in the nebulous beauracracy that is Baton Rouge to release the funds needed to pay for the shelves for the library.

Dr. Zaporozhetz tells us that she has received voice authorization to order the shelves.

Apparently, someone finally decided that it wouldn't take too much time to pick up a phone and call. Would that they had informed the library director some time last semester. As it is, it will still take weeks for the shelving to be completed, and then even more time for the shelves to be shipped and installed.

Why is it so difficult to plan ahead? When the legislature approved the funds to build a new library here at LSUS, did the members really believe that the old shelves would be sufficient to hold all of the old volumes in addition to the several hundred thousand books to be donated by James S. Noel?

Our elected representatives in Baton Rouge seem to lack the foresight to think through every contingency that might arise when planning a project.

Until they do master the art of thinking ahead, we would like to suggest some uses for the empty library. Perhaps LSUS could rent the facility to various organizations and raise enough money for the shelves before Baton Rouge releases the funds.

Why not rent the facility to the parish to house the overflow of prisoners who should be in the new Caddo Parish Jail? (Yes, we know that the voters have turned down tax propositions twice to fund the operation of the jail, but couldn't somebody in B.R. have given us some helpful alternatives?)

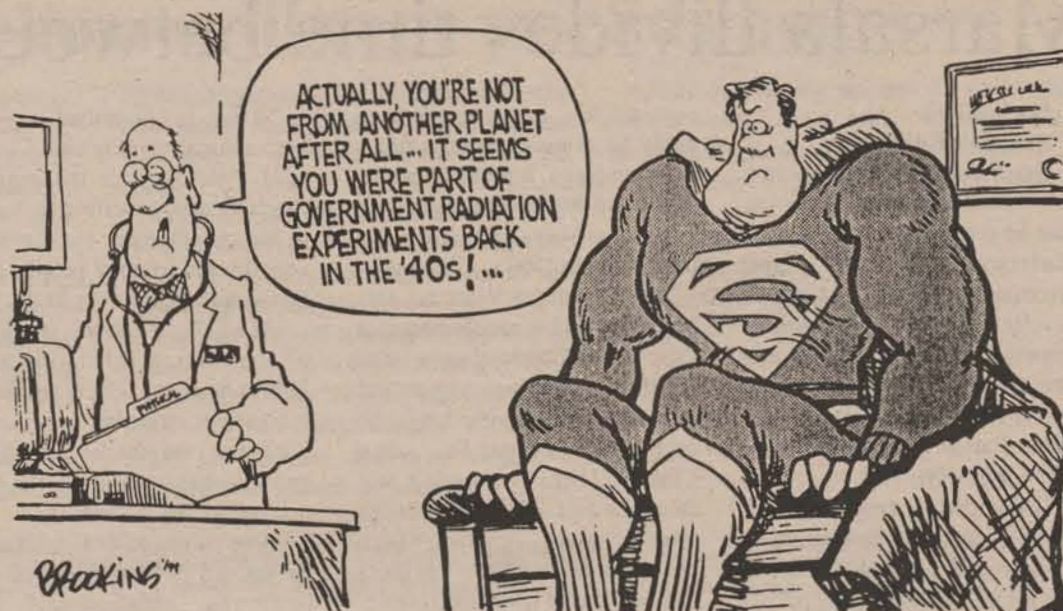
How about BINGO games? These are big money makers with Christians who are opposed to gambling.

Perhaps we could allow fraternities and sororities to rent the facility for their parties and formals. After all, some campus organizations should get use out of the space, right?

Even better, let's just rent it out as unfurnished student housing. Judging from some of the apartments and dorms we have seen in the past, one giant slumber party would be a step up.

Congratulations to the LSUS debate team for moving into the top 50 teams in the nation. This ranking shows us all that one need not attend an expensive institution with a high-profile name in order to achieve excellence.

To sample this excellence, stop by Bronson Hall room 101 at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, where Trey Gibson and Toney Miller will debate whether the U.S. military intervention to foster democratic government is appropriate in a post-cold-war world.



## Media conspiracy unveiled

A gigantic and complex conspiracy is looming over the United States, nay, THE ENTIRE WORLD! Every day the American news media is subtly leading the country towards one ultimate goal: world domination by their chosen future leader bred from birth for the purpose of ruling the world. And who is this sinister figure? ME.

Yes, that's right. Even now the media is warping the truth and twisting the facts in order to destroy your faith in the powers that be. The public's clamor for a political outsider is growing louder and the media will eventually offer up exactly what the public wants, or exactly what the media will convince the public they want. Once again, ME.

If this is some large and powerful plot to put me in power, you may be wondering why I, of all people, am telling you about it. Actually, my logic is rather simple. I am telling you because you will never believe me. Many voices of truth who have uncovered bits and pieces of the plot have been crying out only to be silenced by laughter. Naturally, the public will just laugh at this confession before you and number me as just one of the loonies.

Take, for instance, the moon landing. Several people figured out the truth about that one and yell about it to this day. They are absolutely right. The moon landing never happened. The whole thing was filmed in a studio in Hollywood. Even before I was born forces were working on my image. The whole space program never worked. Come on! People walking on the moon? Please. All those times they showed people bobbing around in the space shuttle, it was actually people hooked to wires in front of a blue screen in California. Then NASA ran out of money to make these sham broadcasts and kept having to "delay" launches because of technical problems. Technical problems is right. The problem is NASA never had the technology to wipe their own butts, much less go into space.

You may be asking yourself why we conspirators went to all this trouble. Well, because 20 years from now I'm going to be bobbing around in front of a blue screen myself, and you twits are going to think I'm on Mars (like you don't already think that). I will be a



Jennifer Newlon

national hero and this will help propel me into the presidency.

For a while we thought that bumbling idiot Ross Perot was going to ruin everything. He was an insider posing as an outsider, just the thing I plan on doing 20 years from now. Luckily the public couldn't stomach the whining voice and big ears for long and he was booted back to Texas. If he was really that smart he would have gotten some aesthetically pleasing puppet to pose for the cameras in his place and do his bidding while he pulled the strings.

The greatest setback to our plot, however, was when one of our most important operatives was killed by a small group of dissenters in our organization who suddenly grew a conscience. The organization created a music star and used his songs to send subliminal messages to the world preparing the public to love and worship me. Then the dissenters left him drugged up and dead on a toilet. Unfortunately for them, their planned backfired and turned the drugged up has-been into a martyr. Before he died, we were starting to consider the rock star's program a failure. His albums were on the sale rack next to Boxcar Willie. Now his music is still being played on oldies stations and in elevators everywhere. Brainwashed fans everywhere are buying plates and stamps with his image. These people will help establish the base of my political power.

Yes, 20 years from now you can look forward to a world where every Thursday everyone must wear beanies with propellers, nothing but orange clothing and walk backwards. Since my best friend is left-handed, 20 years from now children will not be forced to use scissors emblazoned with the word "Lefty" and be branded freaks. Instead, the scissors will be color coded. The left-handed public will no longer be oppressed by the man! And finally, 20 years from now the sperm banks will be full and we will exterminate the entire male population, leaving only a select few for entertainment, household repairs and bug killing. So you better get in good with me now, if you know what's best for you.

Correspondence to Jennifer Newlon can be sent to Sunny Springs Psychiatric Institute, 1 University Place, Shreveport, LA.



# Conservatism, atheism not mutually exclusive

Whenever I see the word "true" preceding an otherwise undistinguished noun, little bells go off in my head. For instance:

"You can't be a TRUE Dallas Cowboy fan if you also like the New Orleans Saints."

Suggesting, of course, that there's a little book somewhere with the Official Rules for Being a Dallas Cowboy Fan spelled out in painstaking detail, and that if you don't follow these Official Rules, you're not REALLY a Dallas Cowboy Fan.

Whatta crock.

However, the word "true" is used in precisely this fashion with abandon these days. Some people, for whatever reason, have to find some way to set themselves apart from the rest of the crowd, and they do this by selecting certain criteria (usually criteria for which they conveniently qualify), considering only those who meet

these criteria to be "true" representatives of whatever group happens to be under discussion, and relegating anyone who doesn't fit these criteria to a lesser, non-"true" status.

You can't be a "true" chili lover if you like beans in your chili; you can't be a "true" beer drinker if you drink mass-produced American beers; you can't be a "true" Star Trek fan if you can't name each of the original episodes in chronological order.

And according to a letter to the editor last semester, you can't be a "true" conservative if you don't believe in God. Guess what? I disagree.

The Bible is a spiritual guide, ostensibly designed by the Creator to provide inspiration for the adherents of Christianity as well as clearly and unequivocally detailing a method by which everyday people can achieve salvation. It provides a detailed accounting of the origins and beliefs of Christianity, and describes the activities of Jesus Christ.

It is not an economics textbook.

Friedrich Hayek wrote a book fifty years ago, called "The Road to Serfdom," which laid the foundations for modern economic

conservatism. He stated that a country's economy is driven by entrepreneurship. Milton Friedman came along some time later and won a Nobel Prize for observing that "if you want to increase an activity, subsidize it; if you want to inhibit an activity, tax it." Arthur Laffer became one of America's foremost economists for proving that, past a certain rate of taxation, revenues taken actually decrease.

The question is: Where does God fit into all this? The answer is that, from an intellectual standpoint, He doesn't. This is not to knock Christian beliefs, but the arguments presented by the economists are self-contained. They stand or fall on their own merits, according to their factual content and logical structure. Neither prayer nor faith is necessary to analyze the arguments. (This is, incidentally, why I consider conservatism to be based on logic, while liberalism is based on emotion.)

"But what about morality?" you ask.

Morality is nothing more than someone's system of right and wrong. I have a system of right and wrong. I believe that unlimited abortion is wrong. I believe that the distribution of condoms to students by high school officials is wrong. I believe that

teaching gay-oriented literature to first graders is wrong.

"But these are traditional Christian values," you reply. "aren't you supposed to be an atheist?"

Being an atheist doesn't mean I automatically discount or exclude a given tenet just because it's Biblical. I'm not going to argue for killing and stealing simply because the Bible argues against killing and stealing. I have no animosity towards religion in general, nor to Christianity in particular. (Aside from which, if you're a Christian, you automatically believe that the moral tenets presented by the Bible are unquestionably true. If this is the case, don't you think that God would have made these unquestionable truths confirmable by the use of simple logic?)

So if I believe in conservative economic theories, and adhere to a traditionally conservative moral code, I can't help but consider myself a conservative (and a "true" conservative, at that). And if I don't believe in a Supreme Being, I can't help but consider myself an atheist. So I'm a conservative atheist. Go figure...

## Name change unpopular with former staffers

Dear Editor:

I offer one tidbit that may shed new light on the ongoing *Almagest*-vs.-*Sentinel* controversy: South Seattle Community College in Seattle, Wash.

Yes, the awful rumor is true. The use of the name *Sentinel*, though reassuring to us who need to be watched over and guarded, just fails to dazzle with originality.

Not only does *Sentinel* adorn the newspaper of the aforementioned school, but also that of 78 other daily, weekly or monthly newspapers in the United States, in one form or another. (For example, the *Lincoln*, Kan., *Sentinel-Republican*.)

So now, when staff members with the LSUS *Sentinel* call important national and international leaders, they will face not only the indignity of not being recognized anyway, but

likely the embarrassment of being confused for reporters from Scottsboro, Ala., or Sitka, Alaska, or even Kamloops, British Columbia.

And how many *Almagests* exist? exactly. The *Canonsburg*, Pa., *Almanac* is doing just fine, but there are no *Almagests*.

So you see, it's really a clear choice. We can rejoin the ranks of the Eastern Arizona College Gila Monster, the Midland College El Paisano and the El Camino College Warwhoop.

Or we can remain stranded in the ordinary and the overworked, the *Sentinel*.

Fernando Pizarro  
Former Associate Editor,  
*Almagest* 1992

Dear Editor:

As a former editor of the *Almagest*, the news of the change in name of the student-produced

newspaper on the LSUS campus came as quite a shock.

I understand that the newspaper staff -- many of whom were first-year staff members -- voted on the change. What rules or regulations were followed? Who was consulted in the decision to change the name? One point to keep in mind is that the staff members of the *Almagest*, the faculty advisor, the Communications Dept. nor the University own the *Almagest*. It is not their newspaper to re-name at their whim. This is a student-produced paper, paid for with student activity fees. If anyone can lay claim it is the student population of LSUS. Perhaps they should have been given the chance to vote on a name change, were one truly necessary.

Another point to consider is the *Almagest* has a history -- an award-winning history. Many people have put years of hard

work into making it a paper with the students' best interest at heart. There have been lean years, but the paper has prevailed to serve not only as a laboratory exercise for Journalism majors, but also as a newspaper. Students have been allowed a forum for voicing their opinions and expressing their ideas while being kept informed of campus and local happenings.

If in fact it is too late to rescind the name change and re-establish this paper as the paper it once was, then at least have the decency to put the *Almagest* to rest with dignity. Start your new paper on its own merits, not on the coattails of a paper built with the blood, sweat and tears of those who have gone before you.

Beth Horstman  
*Almagest* Editor, 1992-1993

Dear Editor,  
The *Sentinel*? Sounds like a damn Star Trek fanzine.

Since I wasn't there the afternoon that the Fall '93 staff took it upon itself to change the name of the school newspaper, I can only guess what happened that day.

Staff member: "I'm, like, bared and stuff."

Other staff member: "Me, too. We could go like, report and stuff."

Staff member: "Nah. I know, let's like change the name of the school newspaper and stuff."

Other staff member: "Yeah! That's like, cool, and stuff. What about, like, tradition and history and stuff?"

Staff member: "Never mind that. So what if the name's been that way for many years? I'm bored RIGHT NOW...and stuff."

Other staff member: So what do we change it to, and stuff?

(See page 8, LETTERS)

**With recent reports of guns found in local schools, do you think that LSUS students carry guns on campus?**



"It's a reality. There's always going to be someone packing. If you go in the UC now, there's probably going to be someone with one."

Herbert Jones  
Senior  
Biology



"It's possible. I don't think anyone would though."

Wes Brown  
Junior  
Criminal Justice



"Yes, it's possible anywhere. But I don't know of anyone who has (brought a gun to campus)."

Susan Masson  
Junior  
Bio-Chem



## New support group forms for single parent students

Chuck Phillips  
The Sentinel

Single parent students will have more help from LSUS beginning in February.

Paula Lynch, acting director of the LSUS Counseling Center, said a single parent support group is being formed to help parents address the problems of balancing academics and child rearing.

Lynch said there is no way of knowing how many single parents attend LSUS, but she estimates the population to be high based on the large number on non-traditional students attending the

university.

Lynch said, "We have had a lot of inquiries about this type of program."

The support group will give single parent students a forum to exchange ideas in a non-threatening environment. Student-parents can help each other by discussing what does and does not work in their effort to balance the additional responsibility of parenthood along with class work.

"This is the first time LSUS has attempted such a program," Lynch said. "We plan to make it a flexible group. People are

welcome to filter in and out as time permits."

Some special problems the group will address are time management, financial concerns, stress management and romantic relationships.

### MEETING

The single parent support group will hold their first meeting Feb. 2 at 1 p.m. in the Administration building, room 215.

## LSUS debate team places in top 50 in country

Davell McKay  
The Sentinel

The state champion debate team has brought more national recognition to LSUS. Last year, the team competed in nine tournaments, winning six first place trophies, and altogether collecting more than two dozen trophies. Those numbers impressed not only Jorji Jarzabek, director of debate, but they also impressed the Cross Examination Debate Association. Within the 512-member CEDA, the debate team currently ranks 43rd, placing it in the top 10 percent of the cream of the debate crop. This

accomplishment is even more astounding considering the size of the school and the team's budget as compared to some of the CEDA's other members.

Jarzabek credits the Student Activities Board's budget committee with some of the debate team's success.

"The SAB has really helped us," she said. "They've made it possible for us to go out and compete on the national level."

Team captain Trey Gibson, who collected the state's top honors in the Lincoln/Douglas (one-on-one) competition, attributes the team's success to "a

lot of hard work, research and brainstorming."

But, as Jarzabek said, "This is not all about one person; it's a team effort that has been three years in the making."

That idea holds true considering that novice (two-on-two) debate team members Toney Miller and Mark Guevara, and Jeff Harrell and Joe Washington were outstanding in the past year, taking first place in their divisions in tournaments in Tuscaloosa, Ala. and Baton Rouge, respectively.

## CAMPUS BRIEFS

### Reminders

■ Deadline for applying for admission to the LSUS Teacher Education Program is Friday, Jan. 28 at 12:30 p.m. Applications can be picked up in the Curriculum Resources Center, BE 213.

■ Beginning Jan. 18 there will be extended hours for academic advising.

5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Monday - College of Business

Tuesday - College of Sciences

Wednesday - Liberal Arts

Thursday - Education

Noon - 4 p.m.

Friday - Academic Affairs

8:30 - 9:30 a.m.

Saturday-Continuing Education

■ The LSUS Colleagues meets every Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. in the Caddo Room in the U.C. The group provides support for academic success, while upholding and strengthening their unique cultural and ethnic heritage.

■ Found: A ladies ring in the parking lot next to the Education Building. Call 742-1061.

Briefs should be submitted to the Sentinel, BH 344, the Friday before publication.

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comedian

**Rondell Sheridan**

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# Basketball teams still have shot at playoffs

Brian Allen  
Sports Editor

With just over a month left in the NAIA basketball season, both the men's and women's teams are ready to make a playoff run.

Thanks to the NAIA's unique ratings system, both teams stand a realistic chance of making the playoffs despite losing records. The Dunkel system places teams not by won-loss record, but by the quality of opposition and how well teams perform against that opposition. Men's basketball coach David Geer explained further, using a recent victory as an example:

"We beat Dallas by 12 points, but we were actually favored by 15 points, so that hurt us a little, but not too much. Now if we had lost that Dallas game by, say, one point, then that would have hurt our rating, and we probably would have dropped into fifth

place."

The top four teams in the Southwest Independents Region make the playoffs, and the 7-11 Pilots are currently in third, with a 28.4 Dunkel rating. Center Mark McGary leads the team in scoring at 18.2 points a game, and is sixth in the region overall. Guard Chad McDowell leads the team and the region in assists at 6.1 per game. Armed with this kind of firepower, Geer is confident about his team's chances:

"I have no doubts that we'll make the playoffs. We only have to finish in the top four and that's what we're shooting for."

It would be the Pilots' second consecutive trip to the playoffs. Last year's 17-15 squad was eliminated in the first round by Southwestern University.

In contrast, the Lady Pilots have struggled to a 2-18 record in their program's second season.

This season the Lady Pilots will play 32 games, 15 more than last year's 10-7 squad. Coach Karla Barham said it is not the number of games, but the strength of their opposition that has resulted in a losing record. Twelve of their opponents play in NAIA Division I, and are scholarship programs, unlike LSUS, which is a Division II school. Barham feels fans should know this before criticizing the program:

"I don't want to sound like I'm defending myself, but I do want people to know why we're 2-18," she said.

Barham put the more established programs on the schedule not as a sadistic training ritual for her players, but for financial reasons. Because Division II programs are scattered all across the nation, it is less expensive to play the larger schools. The Lady Pilots thus

keep the program within budget, but pay dearly with their record.

But because of the Dunkel system, the Lady Pilots are not yet dead. Six of their losses have been by 10 points or less, so they've gained ratings points for quality of opposition. The Lady Pilots are currently sixth in the region with a 13.9 Dunkel rating, or two spots out of the playoffs. They need to catch 3-10 Bartlesville Wesleyan, with a 24.2 rating. To do that, the Lady Pilots need to upset a Division I team and boost their rating. Upcoming games against Louisiana College and Southwest Region leader Tarleton State will provide them with that opportunity.

Unfortunately, the Lady Pilots learned last week that they will play these games without starting forward Ashley Smith, who fractured a bone in her right wrist

in a game against the University of Dallas. Smith is the team's second leading scorer at 16.9 points per game, and its leading rebounder at 13 per game. Point guard Tami Knotts and forward Jennifer Boydston will be asked to step up their games yet another notch in Smith's absence. Knotts is third in the nation in scoring, averaging 28.8 points per game, while Boydston is the team's third leading scorer at 12.3 points per game.

## Home Games

The Pilots next home game is Feb. 3 at 7 p.m. against East Texas Baptist University.

The Lady Pilots return home on Feb. 8 for a 7 p.m. game against Ambassador College.

Admission is free with a student identification card.

# Family, athletics give Geer coaching strength

Richard E. Williams  
The Sentinel

In his fourth year of coaching men's basketball at LSUS, head coach David Geer has seen notable progress in the men's program since its origination.

"I think the team is really starting to come together," Geer said of his current 6-10 Pilots team.

"We've struggled...but that's mainly due to the caliber of competition we've played. Nicholls State was probably the toughest. Midwestern State (Jan. 17) will probably be pretty tough, too. Overall, we've come a long way in four years."

Geer has come a long way as well.

He was born in Dallas, but grew up in south Bossier City. His parents encouraged



Geer

*"I've been in athletics all my life, basically. It's what I've always been most comfortable with."*

David Geer, LSUS men's basketball coach

him to pursue athletics as a positive outlet for aggression. He played Little League, and fell in love with the sport immediately.

"I wanted to be a professional baseball player, and if I couldn't make it, I wanted to remain a part of it somehow. And that's how I fell into coaching," Geer said.

His father, he admitted, played a big role in his career as well.

"Dad...coached me when I was in Little League and the Summer League and had a very positive influence on me," Geer reflected.

But it was basketball that presented Geer with his best career choice.

After playing minor league baseball (semi-pro) for nine years, Geer decided that pursuing his bachelor's in education would be more prudent as a career choice, and he was rewarded for that ideology with his

first head coaching job at Central High School in Grand Cane, La. in

1983, as the boy's and girl's head basketball coach. He coached there for three years, compiling a 90-51 record.

From there he went to Woodlawn High School as an assistant basketball coach. In 1988, he became head coach of the boy's team. His record that year: 13-14.

Losing wasn't something that Geer could get used to. But he said that having a wife who's his "biggest fan" helps.

"My wife loves it! She comes to all of our home games, and she brings our kids to every game, too," Geer laughed. He and his wife of 11 years, Pamela, have two children: 4-year-old Courtney and Skylar, 3-years-old.

"Skylar's a real big Pilots fan. He comes to all the home games, and even comes to a few of the team practices and plays with my assistant coach (Louis Cook), shooting and dribbling all over the gym. He's a little gym rat," said Geer.

It's a combination of this family support and a life-long love for athletics that gives Geer the strength to persevere.

"I've been in athletics all my life,

basically," Geer said. "It's what I've always been most comfortable with. This (current season) is nothing to panic over. The season's not over; we have 11 games left."

A typical David Geer basketball practice is exemplary of the type of coach Geer has always been: hard-driven, motivational, and yet, instructional.

"The fellows work hard at every practice, and we're (asst. coach Cook) always preparing for the next game," Geer explained. "During the season we basically have no spare time because there's always another game to get ready for."

So what's in the future for the LSUS Pilots Men's Basketball Program?

"I see our team improving steadily each year," Geer said, "but I don't think that we can ever achieve a high degree of success unless we get more financial support from the school."

"I mean, you look at some of the other schools in our division: Tarleton State (Stephenville, Texas) is a full scholarship men's and women's program, and they're about to go to the NCAAs; the team that we played the other night (University of Dallas, Texas) was a scholarship program, and probably will go to Division I-AA (NCAA) in a year or so, too. They have the full support of their schools -- financially and otherwise. And that's something I really think that we here at LSUS need -- more support."

"Of course, winning can help breed success, too," he added with a grin.

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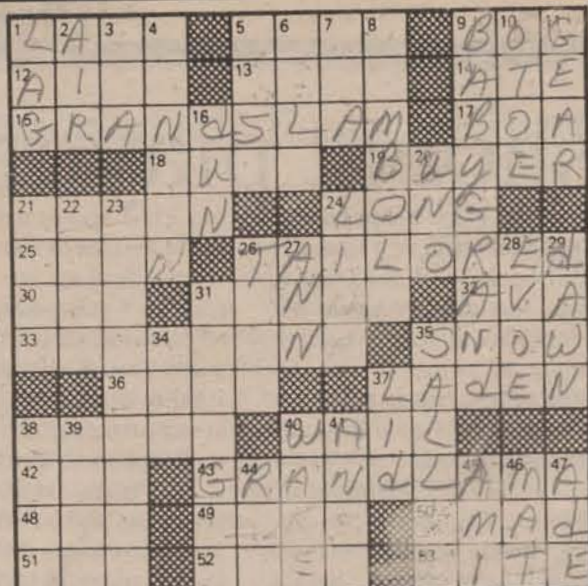
February 19



## King Crossword

### ACROSS

1. Secular
5. Playbill list
9. Small swamp
12. She loved Radames
13. Table spread
14. Had a bite
15. Bridge triumph
17. Feather scarf
18. It "whispers low" (Emerson)
19. Consumer
21. Dickens villain
24. Shelley or Huey
25. Baron or earl
26. Cut to fit
30. Actress Alicia
31. Mills or Reed
32. Miss Gardner
33. Offered
35. Skier's delight
36. Secluded valley
37. Burdened
38. French soldier
40. Cry plaintively
42. Rio de —
43. Tibetan high priest
48. "— Miserables"
49. French river
50. Burden
51. Barcelona



- bravo  
52. Baseball's Bucky  
53. — receiver  
**DOWN**  
1. Fall behind  
2. Ventilate  
3. Tennyson princess  
4. "— Camera"  
5. — of living  
6. Confederate  
7. Word with bird or biscuit  
8. Game like bingo  
9. Keyboard

- instrument  
10. Indian  
11. Equipment  
16. Press for payment  
20. Numero —  
21. Not on key  
22. First-class  
23. Pompous and showy  
24. Soprano Jenny  
26. Raced  
27. Sue — Langdon  
28. Cry of revelers  
29. Daybreak  
31. Flooded  
34. Ending for scan  
or van  
35. Willow twig  
37. Cover  
38. Active sport  
39. City on the Oka  
40. Send an alarm  
41. Dill weed  
44. Bea's "Golden" co-star  
45. Black bird  
46. Wrestler's place?  
47. An enzyme

## Letters

(Cont. from page 5)

Staff member: "You know that new guy that talks in front of our classroom and stuff? He used to work for one of those thingies..."

Other staff member: "You mean, a newspaper and stuff?"

Staff member: "Yeah. It was called the Orlando Sentinel. I need a good grade in his class. We could change the name to the Sentinel to kiss his butt and hopefully improve my grade...and stuff."

Thus the name change began. I'm sorry if that is not the way it happened, but like I said before, I wasn't there so I have to guess.

Sure, there are some other questions our two staff members could have asked themselves. What did the Almagest staff of

the Fall '93 semester feel it had done, what had it achieved, that made it special enough to change the name of the newspaper? I understand some students expressed a problem with recognition, that when they called for interviews and said they were from the Almagest, the person on the other end of the phone didn't know what the Almagest was. That's going to change when the name's the Sentinel? What is inherent in the word "Sentinel" that will make people automatically go, "Oh, yes, the LSUS student newspaper?"

The name Almagest ("an extensive record" or "greatest composition" depending on which dictionary you look at) is in keeping with the university's nautical theme. The original Almagest was a work by the ancient Greek astronomer Ptolemy, whose stellar maps were by ship's pilots to guide

their ships on the ocean.

If you're having a problem with recognition, remember it's not the name's fault. A newspaper's recognition comes from its reputation.

To paraphrase one of your infamous editorials, the Sentinel Sucks.

Tim Greening  
Columnist, Sports Editor  
Almagest, 1992-1993

### Sports Quiz Answers

1. Pittsburgh Penguins 56-21-7; 2. San Jose 11-71-2 and Ottawa 10-70-4; 3. Mario Lemieux of Pittsburgh; 4. Teemu Selanne of Winnipeg; 5. Chris Chelios of Chicago; 6. Ed Bel- four of Chicago; 7. Pierre Turgeon of the Islanders; 8. Pat Burns of Toron- to

### Trivia Test Answers

1. Ronald Reagan; 2. Boston Red Sox; 3. Marlon Brando; 4. Horatio Nelson; 5. dogs; 6. Alaska; 7. homosexuality; 8. she drowned

### Sports Quiz by Larry Duncan

#### NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

1. What team had the best record in the N.H.L. last year?
2. What two teams had the worst record in the N.H.L. last year?
3. What player won the Hart Memorial Trophy last year for MVP?
4. What player won the Calder Memorial Trophy last year for most outstanding rookie?
5. What player won the James Norris Trophy for most outstanding defenseman last year?
6. What player won the Vezina Trophy last year for best goaltender?
7. What player won the Lady Byng Trophy last year for best sportsman- ship?
8. What coach won the Jack Adams Award for contributing the most to his team's success last year?

### Trivia Test by Linda Luckhurst

1. Screen Stars: Who referred to himself as the "Errol Flynn of B movies"?
2. Sports: With what team did Babe Ruth start out in the major leagues?
3. Movie Quotes: What actor said, "I have sent them you, my only son" in the movie, "Superman"?
4. History Quotes: Who said, "England expects every man will do his duty"?
5. Come Again?: For what kind of animals are the Canary Islands named?
6. Geography: Where would you find Mt. McKinley?
7. For Shame: What was the kind of love that dared not speak its name in Victorian England?
8. Music: In the famous song, what did in "My Darling Clementine"?

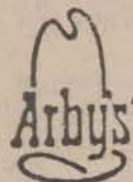
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The *Almagest* requests your reactions through Letters to the Editor. Letters should be typed and doubled-spaced. Please include your Class (Freshman, etc.) and Major field of study. They should be turned in to the *Almagest* office BH 344, by noon on the Friday preceeding the Friday publication date.

Obscene, libelous, and anonymous letters will not be published. We reserve the right to edit all letters.



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